

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/834,779

Applicant(s)

PELLINAT, MARTIN

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to June 18, 2004.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2-14, 15-25 (renumbered as 1-25).

3. The drawings filed on 12 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03112004

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 - www.uspto.gov

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. **Claims 1, 2-14, 15-25 (renumbered as 1-25) are allowed.**

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

In the Claims:

2. Claim 15 has been amended as shown below. This amendment was authorized by Mr. Troy Schmelzer, Attorney for Applicant(s), Reg. No. 36,667 in a telephone conference held on September 29, 2004.

15. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for guiding a user through a decision-making process on a particular issue comprising: obtaining a goal of the user in resolving the issue; obtaining possible outcomes related to the goal; obtaining influence factors on the possible outcomes and rankings of the importance of the influence factors; iteratively eliciting creative solutions for positively affecting the influence factors, and obtaining rankings of importance

and difficulty of positively affecting the influence factors, until a solution having an acceptably low difficulty-to-importance ratio is obtained; and generating a strategy unique to the user's particular issue using a methodology based on the rankings of the importance of the influence factors and the importance and difficulty of positively affecting the influence factors.

3. Claims 2 & 16 have been canceled.

4. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art *Richards et al.* (UNPAP Pub. No. US 2002/0145626), *Palma-dos-Reis et al.* Designing personalized intelligent financial decision support, Decision Support Systems 26, (1999), does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention.

With regards to claim 1, *Richards et al.* & *Palma-dos-Reis et al.*, does not disclose “ *... influence factors on the possible outcomes, the weight of the influence factors on the possible outcome, and the weight of affecting the influence factors ... generating an action plan using a methodology based on the weight of the influence factors and the weight of affecting the influence factors.*”

With regards to claim 11, *Richards et al.* & *Palma-dos-Reis et al.*, does not disclose “ *... influence factors on the possible outcomes and ... for each influence factor, reducing a risk associated with the influence factor to an acceptable level if the risk is too high relative to the importance of the influence factor by iteratively querying the user for risk reduction actions.*”

With regards to claim 14, *Richards et al.* & *Palma-dos-Reis et al.*, does not disclose “ *... influence factors on the possible outcomes and rankings of the weight of the influence factors on*

the outcomes and the risk of affecting the influence factors ... an action plan to the user using a methodology based on the user rankings of weight and risk."

With regards to claim 15, *Richards et al. & Palma-dos-Reis et al.*, does not disclose “*... obtaining influence factors on the possible outcomes and rankings of the importance of the influence factors; iteratively ... and obtaining rankings of importance and difficulty of positively affecting the influence factors, until a solution having an acceptably low difficulty-to-importance ratio is obtained; and generating a strategy unique to the user's particular issue using a methodology based on the rankings of the importance of the influence factors and the importance and difficulty of positively affecting the influence factors.”*

With regards to claim 18, *Richards et al. & Palma-dos-Reis et al.*, does not disclose “*... a quantitative ranking of the weight of each of the influencing factors; and ... using a methodology based on the quantitative ranking of the weight of each of the influencing factors.”*

With regards to claim 25, *Richards et al. & Palma-dos-Reis et al.*, does not disclose “*... obtaining quantitative rankings of the influence factors and the creative solutions; and means for generating the action plan by prioritizing the influence factors and creative solutions based on the quantitative rankings.”*

Correspondence Information

5. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 308-6280**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday

through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. est. If you need to contact the Examiner, regarding After Final concerns, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7240**. If you need to send a Non-Official or Draft facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the **Examiner's Supervisor, Anthony Knight**, may be reached at **(703) 308-3179**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed too:

Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, or Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist, located on the fourth floor of Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia.

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